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Grievances of Colombia.

Whatever They Are the World Is Too Busy to Listen.

The world has little or no use for a man with a grievance; it has even less for a government which attempts to play the part of a "striker" and fails. Colombia finds herself in the position of the latter today. Through her representative, General Reyes, she now airs her alleged wrongs and appeals to the sympathy of the civilized world. We should be greatly surprised were she to get it.

The correspondence between the State Department and General Reyes, sent by the President to the Senate on Monday, sheds no new light upon the subject of Colombian and Panama affairs. On the part of General Reyes it is in spots distinctively impertinent. It was scarcely necessary, for instance, that Secretary Hay should reply to General Reyes' repeated imputations upon the conduct and motives of our Government. The charge that our Government, or any responsible member of it, held intercourse, official or unofficial, with agents of the revolution in Colombia is utterly without justification, and could have suggested itself to General Reyes' mind only after a perusal of some yellow journal of Democratic and anti-Administration tendencies. Equally without justification is the insinuation, conveyed in one of General Reyes' letters, that any action of our Government, prior to the revolution in Panama, was the result of complicity with the plans of the revolutionists. In taking note of these charges and investing them with the dignity of a reply, the State Department went out of its way, in our opinion, to show consideration to the agent of a clique of disgruntled strikers—a consideration which neither agent nor principal was entitled to. The answer to this, of course, may be that it was necessary in order to "make up the record," yet we should be surprised to hear that this correspondence had been read by anyone to whom time means anything.

The world at large cares little or nothing, we repeat, for this correspondence or the "grievances of Colombia." What it does care for is the canal; and no canal was ever pierced by pen and ink. Neither will pen and ink prevent its being built. General Reyes is wasting his energies in entering "a solemn protest, in the name of Colombia, against the denial of justice inflicted upon her." That protest is as ludicrous as his threat that Colombian troops will now enter Panama, "with a view to subduing the rebellion."

Our Merchant Marine.

A Possible Way of Improvement of the Service.

The National Board of Trade will discuss, among other things, in its thirty-fourth annual session, the improvement of the merchant marine. The Boston Chamber of Commerce has recommended that Congress render "all possible assistance and encouragement for the enlargement and maintenance of American shipping."

The trouble with some of the schemes for the improvement of the merchant marine is that they are based on grounds sentimental rather than economic. Trade may follow the flag if the inducements are all right, but as a matter of fact trade follows the best bargains. There is one way in which this service might be improved, however, which is indicated in several books of the human document order which have lately been published by various firms in New York and Chicago. The publishers have apparently been at some trouble to get men who have really known the life of the sea to write these books, and their interest is primarily that of fiction, of adventure, of episode. But there is just one point on which they all most curiously agree, and that is, that there should be laws for the better protection of the interests of the common sailor. Stories almost incredible are told of the brutality, parsimony, and injustice of individual captains, and it is made quite clear that the sailor, however efficient and honest, has absolutely no redress. Certain ships come to be stigmatized as "bad," certain captains are marked

in the gossip of the port as "bad men," but as for any possibility of punishing these captains under the law for maiming or murdering or starving their crews, the thing is not to be thought of.

This lack of proper legislation is, according to the testimony of the men who have recorded their experience, the reason why there is not a better class of men in the merchant trade. Knowing that they are to be treated like dogs if the captain chooses, good men choose some other way of making a living; reduced to the necessity of arguing with human brutes who understand nothing but force, the captains are necessarily brutal and tyrannical. It is not desirable that the conditions of piracy should be reproduced on any American ship, but it looks as if the only difference between the buccaneer of fiction and a certain type of American sea captain is that the latter does not rob the public on the high seas.

There is no real need of such a system. It has been proved over and over again in the world's economic system that men do better work as men than as wolves, and that it pays to work on wholesome or plain food rather than on a scant allowance of rotten meat and badly cooked fatter. No sailors were ever more effective than the better class of Americans employed in the whaling industry early in the nineteenth century; and they were not slaves under a tyrant, but often shareholders in the ship. The brutality of the present is, of course, a survival of brutality in the past, but it seems as if it might be just as well to investigate the conditions under which American sailors work, and see if better protection of their interests would not improve the service, to the interests of all concerned.

When Doctors Disagree.

A Difference of Opinion Between Two Distinguished Democrats.

Mr. Hearst tells the "New York Herald" that he has been in favor of an isthmian canal for twenty years. He has always thought, he says, that of the different routes proposed, the Nicaragua route was the best; yet, inasmuch as "the party in power has determined to build no canal but the Panama canal, it would not become the Democratic party to block what may be for the present the only obtainable solution of the canal problem."

When doctors disagree, who shall decide? As between Dr. Gorman and Dr. Hearst, what are the leaders of the party to do when they assemble in solemn conclave on the banks of the Mississippi on July 6 next? It's a pretty mess into which the Maryland boss has led his friends. Not only has he been unable to rally to his support his associates in the Senate, but throughout the South State Legislatures and commercial bodies with more or less influence have been passing resolutions indorsing the attitude of a Republican Administration. And now, on top of it all, comes a rival for the Presidential nomination and declares in so many words Mr. Gorman's views to be mostly fudge. Under the circumstances we cannot help withholding our sympathy from Mr. Gorman. His Presidential boom seems to have struck a serious snag, the more serious as it indicates with practical certainty a coalition of the Kears and Bryan wings of the party for the purpose of dominating the convention and dictating the nominations.

Mr. Gorman has a well deserved reputation for political shrewdness. In this instance, however, he didn't display much of it. Indeed, we cannot recall off-hand a more flagrant blunder committed by a politician of Mr. Gorman's caliber within the last twenty-five years, involving as this blunder of his does an utter misunderstanding concerning the state of public opinion in so important a question as that of isthmian transit. But Mr. Gorman will survive. He comes high, but his party must have him. And, besides, he has—in a political sense—the proverbial nine lives of a cat.

American Voices.

The Imperative Necessity for Their Cultivation.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson once said that if he were shut up in the dark with a mixed company, he could distinguish the gentlefolk by their voices. It is doubtful whether he could do it now, for some of the people in what is called good society—people with every advantage of breeding—have voices anything but melodious. Fashion has a great deal to do with these things.

If Americans, particularly American women, would spend less time on the study of the piano and more on the study of the speaking voice, it would add much to their charm. It would also add to the delights of social life. When a crowd of people meet for social enjoyment in one

room, they can divide into groups and enjoy conversation thoroughly, even if they are all talking at once, so long as their voices are low-pitched and well modulated, but there are social affairs in which the conversation of the roomful of women reminds one of nothing so much as a cage of parakeets ready for dinner.

Foreigners often arouse dislike by their comments on the strident, high-pitched voice of the American woman. Indignant denials of this defect are likely to be made after every criticism, but it is easy for Americans to forget that the impressions of a foreigner are uninfluenced by habit, and that things which do not strike us as curious are noticeable to him. For instance, when we see two well-dressed, or, at least, handsomely dressed, women enter a street car, and hear one of them exclaim, in a voice which rises above the rumble of the car, "Say, Mame, dje see that feller last night?" we know that they are not well-bred Americans, but the foreigner not unnaturally takes them as specimens of our better classes, because he does not know the type.

To paraphrase a Simeon Ford proverb, the difference between Hanna and Heath is the difference between a large man with a big mind and a little man with a big head.

It is unfortunate for the panic-stricken audience argument of the trust that since the Iroquois Theater disaster there have been fires about twice a week in which the audience refused to be panic-stricken at all.

Perry Heath says Senator Hanna is pursued. He is—by one bird of ill omen called Heath.

When the cold nips the well-to-do citizen through his furs and fringes, it is good for him to remember the citizen who is not well-to-do, and gets the freeze without the furs.

The "New York Herald" is not engaged in a "crusade" for the abolition of personal pronouns, though its editorial paragraphs do have that appearance.

The charge that Mr. Hearst has "flopped" on the canal question causes a variegated and long-continued trot from the editorial end of the "American." Will all who love peace and quiet please refrain from charging Mr. Hearst with anything except the purest patriotism and love of truth?

Perry Heath comes out for Taft and Roosevelt simultaneously—at least, that is the current report.

Heath's record may be all right, but a man who would steal Bryan's crucifixion metaphor must be some sort of a kleptomaniac.

The trouble about leap year balls is that none of them are gotten up by the bachelors' clubs.

If some of these new cereals were analyzed, together with samples of good fresh sawdust, would there be any danger of getting them mixed?

The bob-sled is commonplace on a country road, but in a crowded city it creates all the excitement of an automobile.

The public is confidentially informed that in order to live on twenty-five cents a week it is only necessary to live on credit and pay ten cents on the dollar.

NEW POWER SIGNALING ON FRENCH RAILWAYS

An interesting new development of power signaling is to be carried out in connection with the installation of low-pressure pneumatic apparatus at Erment Junction on the Northern Railroad of France, by the British Pneumatic Signal Company. This junction, which is within a short distance of Paris, is in the shape of a two-pronged fork, the stem of which leads to Paris, while one prong goes toward Pontivy and the other toward Valmoré, all three lines being double tracks. There are also several sidings requiring to be worked from the junction cabin. To simplify the work of the signalman it has been decided to use "route-levers" and each combination of switch forming a cross road will be worked by a signal lever, while another single lever operates all the signals in each direction, these signals being "selected" on the ground through the switches. Thus, instead of having to pull over a number of levers in series in order to pass a train from one side of the junction to the other, the signalman will only have to pull two levers, one of which will work the whole combination of switches necessary to be moved, while the other is a master lever for the whole of the signals for that route.

In the case of the siding the principle of the route lever is to be carried a step further and both the signal and the switch operated by one stroke of the lever. The route lever arrangement already exists in essence at the Salisbury and Sudbury installations on the London and South Western. The mechanism employed is simply a variation of the "automatic return." Instead of coming back at once to the cabin to complete the stroke of the lever and release the interlocking, the return air from the operating chamber is conveyed to the second set of switches which it operates in the usual way, and thence the return air comes back to the cabin to give automatic indication to the signalman that the route is properly set up.

In the matter of piping there will probably be a saving over the ordinary method of operating by separate levers, but paradoxical though it may seem, a larger number of levers will be required than would be wanted with the ordinary practice, as each combination of switches will require a separate lever. The installation at Erment will have a four-lever frame, and it is understood that if it is satisfactory the low pressure apparatus will be used on other parts of the Northern, the offices of which have expressed their intention to adopt power signaling in future for all installations of over forty levers. Railroad Gazette.

THE PERSONAL SIDE

ADJOURN TO ADJOINING ROOM.

"What's doing in the next room?" was a question that unexpectedly came up for discussion at the last meeting of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Bank Clerks.

While the clerks were talking of financial trouble, sounds of merrymaking floated into the room, interspersed with the clink of glasses, rippling laughter and loud guffaws.

The envious bankers cast their eyes at the door that separated them from the merry-makers, and it was with the idea of voicing a popular sentiment that George O. Watson, a natural humorist, suggested as the meeting was about to adjourn:

"Mr. Chairman, I move that the meeting adjourn to the adjoining room."

The motion was promptly seconded.

TOO COLD FOR IRISH.

Col. John C. Irish, naval officer of the port at San Francisco, who is now in the city, called at the White House the other morning, when the thermometer was down to the lowest notch of the season. Colonel Irish used to live in Iowa, and in those days was accustomed to blizzards. Since his long sojourn on the Pacific Coast, he does not like the rigors of winter. He came into the White House offices with his head buried deep in his overcoat collar and his face blue with the cold.

"How long will you be in the city, Colonel?" asked a newspaper man. "Well, not any longer than I can help," said the Colonel, between shivers. "I'm going to finish my business here just as quick as I can and then get back to the land God Almighty looks down on with a perpetual smile, where the flowers bloom throughout the year, and where the mercury never gets so low it threatens to lose itself. I've heard a good deal about the mild climate of Washington, but I don't want any of it in mine. No, sir. Next week I'll see me in California."

CONFIRMED IN HABIT.

"He leads them like lambs," suddenly wailed Attorney Samuel Maddox, for the defense, and looked sorrowfully at Justice Pritchard in the Postoffice trials on Tuesday.

"He leads who?" asked the honorable court, somewhat surprised by the apparently inapposite statement.

"Mr. Taggart leads the witnesses, I mean," said Mr. Maddox. "He just draws them right along until he gets the answer he wants."

"Oh, he can't help that," butted in C. A. Douglass, "he's been so accustomed to leading witnesses on the stand that he does it unconsciously, and it is scarcely any use in trying to stop him."

"Counsel for the prosecution," announced Justice Pritchard, and after this exchange of legal amenities the trial proceeded.

IGNORANT OF MARRIAGE LAWS.

The knowledge, or rather lack of knowledge, of the laws of morality, and the law of the land in relation to marriage contracts is very frequently shown when application is made for a license to marry. It is at such times that the person who issues the license must be on his "p's" and "q's" or a serious mistake may be made.

In applying for the marriage license clerk at the City Hall said only the strictest attention to the law will prevent the issuing of licenses to persons not entitled to them. For instance, he said, a day or two ago a man named Banks stepped up to the desk and asked for a license. Banks answered all questions propounded to him in a satisfactory manner until he was asked if the woman he desired to marry had a husband living. He replied that she had, and added that that made no difference, because her husband left her a long time ago and is now married again.

When informed that a license would not be issued to him, Banks was greatly surprised and said he could not see why the woman could not marry again if she wanted to, after her husband had taken unto himself another wife. When it was explained to Banks that he would be punished, if he contracted a marriage with a woman whom he knew had a husband living he was grateful for the information, and left the City Hall much wiser if not happier than when he entered the building.

LOUISIANA DEMOCRATS HOLD THEIR PRIMARIES

Judge Blanchard Apparently Wins Nomination for Governor, and Foster Will Succeed Himself in the Senate.

The Democrats of Louisiana, following the lead of their brethren in South Carolina, Mississippi and other Southern States, have just held their first primary election, with the result that the system has given apparent satisfaction. The candidates chosen were for State office and a choice for United States Senator to succeed the Hon. Murphy J. Foster, whose term expires in March, 1907. The indications are that Judge Newton C. Blanchard has succeeded in winning the nomination for governor to succeed Governor Heard and that Senator Foster will be indorsed to succeed himself.

Judge Blanchard's opponent was Gen. Leon Jastrenski, an ex-Confederate officer, and minister to Peru under one of the Cleveland Administrations. Both men canvassed the State thoroughly and the campaign was heated. At one time when the two candidates were speaking from the same platform in joint debate the life was passed and there was a resort to fistfights after the style of campaigning made notorious by Gov. Jeff Davis in the neighboring State of Arkansas.

Struck His Opponent.

General Jastrenski became angered at a statement made by his opponent and struck Judge Blanchard while the latter was talking. The affair created quite a sensation, and while the usual apologies followed, the relations between the two rivals have been greatly strained throughout the canvass.

Judge Blanchard is well known in Washington, having served in the House for a number of years, and later in the Senate as successor to Senator White, who was promoted to the Supreme Court bench by President Cleveland. Judge Blanchard was first appointed by the governor of Louisiana to the Senate, and later elected to serve but the unexpired term of Senator White. He was defeated for re-election by Senator McInery, and later elected to the Supreme Court of Louisiana, from which office he resigned several months ago in order to enter the race for governor.

The primary system was vigorously opposed by the party organization in the State, but there was such pressure in favor of it by the public that the machine was forced to yield, and the result has given evident satisfaction. Notwithstanding the fact that the nominations are made by primaries, it will be necessary for the Louisiana Democrats to hold a State convention to promulgate a platform. The election will be held next April, and the Democratic nomination is equivalent to an election, so that Judge Blanchard will undoubtedly be the next governor of the State.

Indiana Governorship.

Judge William L. Penfield, solicitor for the State Department, has formally announced that he is a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of Indiana. He has been considering the subject for several months, and after a conference here last week with Governor Durbin decided to make known his aspirations to transfer the name of his public service to the State Department of the National Government to the State House at Indianapolis.

Judge Penfield is a native of Michigan but has had his residence in the Hoosier State for more than thirty years. He was appointed to his present position six years ago, and achieved distinction in connection with Jackson H. Ralston, of this city, and Senator Stewart of Nevada by winning the first case which was heard by The Hague Tribunal of Arbitration.

The case was that of the "Pious Fund claim of the Californias" against the government of Mexico, which the United States won all except one point, that being the kind of money in which payment should be made.

Judge Penfield also achieved some notoriety a little more than a year ago by reason of a controversy, more or less of a personal nature, between himself and Senator Bailey of Texas, and over which there was talk at one time of a personal encounter.

There are several other candidates in the field for the Indiana governorship, and the contest promises to be lively, and not a little exciting. As the election comes in a Presidential year, every effort will be made to nominate a strong

candidate in order that his strength may be of assistance in helping along the electoral ticket. Judge Penfield has a large following in the Hoosier State, and it is said that his chances of success are as good as the present time as are those of any other aspirant for the nomination.

Growth of Socialism.

Chicago missed the Democratic national convention by a few votes swung from New York to St. Louis as the result of a political deal to prevent any advantage accruing to Representative Hearst, an aspirant for the Presidency, but it is nevertheless to have another national convention besides the Republican gathering. The National Socialist party has issued a call for its convention to be held in Chicago beginning May 1.

As the Socialists cast more than 25,000 votes in the last Presidential election, and the representation in the convention is to be based upon one delegate to each 100 votes polled in that year, the convention promises to be a large one. The Socialist vote is divided, however, between two parties, the Socialist Labor party, which polled about 125,000 votes, and the Social Democratic party, which polled nearly twice that number. The indications are that, in view of the fact that the Socialist vote has steadily increased during the past ten years, these parties will poll a still larger number of votes this year.

Socialism is most in evidence in Massachusetts, where it now controls nearly 10 per cent of the vote or an aggregate of 40,000 votes. It also has 30,000 votes, or more than 2 per cent of the vote of New York. Next to Massachusetts the Socialists are strongest in Montana and Washington, where they control more than 5 per cent of the total vote of each of these two States. So prominent is Socialism becoming in politics that the Republican National Committee, which met here last month, at the suggestion of certain New York Republicans, referred the matter of a plan to prevent the spread of the idea to a committee to act in conjunction with the State body to thwart the growth of Socialism.

WOULD PROVIDE PENALTY FOR DISHONEST OFFICIALS

Representative Haskins of Vermont has introduced in the House a bill which provides that every person who, after his election to, and while a member of Congress, or any other agent or officer of the Government who gives or accepts compensation for procuring a Government contract shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction be punished by not more than two years' imprisonment, and a fine not to exceed \$2,000.

The contract is to be declared null and void, and the person so guilty is made ineligible to hold any office under the Government.

TO PREVENT DOCKING OF HORSES' TAILS

Representative Powers of Massachusetts has introduced a bill to prevent the docking of horses' tails in the District of Columbia.

Representative Wiley of Alabama has introduced a bill appropriating \$5,000 for the erection of a statue in Washington to the memory of Jeremiah O'Brien, and to bear the following inscription: "Erected to the memory of the heroic Irish-American, Jeremiah O'Brien, who captured and sank in the first sea fight of the Revolutionary war the Marguerite."

VARILLA'S MISSION WAS PURELY PERSONAL

M. Bunau-Varilla, minister from Panama, who has returned from a four days' visit to New York, said he had given them purely on personal business to see his wife and three children, who are residing there.

The minister is gratified that the Panama treaty drawn by Secretary Hay and himself and approved by the Panama Junta, was adopted practically in its entirety by the Senate committee.

NATIONAL CONVENTION TO-BE NEGROES' MECCA

Trainload to Besiege Republican Assembly to Protest Against Action of "Lily White" Faction.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 20.—Negro leaders of Alabama are arranging to send a trainload of members of the race in this and other Southern States, to the Republican National Convention in Chicago for the purpose of representing to the party authorities the manner in which the Lily White Republicans are alleged to have excluded the negro from the party organization, and to demand their rights in the councils of the party and as citizens.

The leaders of the movement not only hope to have the party authorities declare against the "Lily White" policy of ruling the negro, but will also seek to have inserted in the Republican national platform a plank against the disfranchisement of negroes. An effort is being made to have Booker T. Washington lead the party.

MONEY FOR ERECTION OF ARMY HOSPITAL

The army appropriation bill now ready to be reported to the House carries an appropriation of \$300,000 for the erection of a new general army hospital in the District of Columbia. It also appropriates \$300,000 to complete the work on the War College.

The measure carries an appropriation of \$2,355,000, as against \$1,657,000 last year. The estimates for the present year were, including supplemental estimates, nearly \$7,000,000. One million dollars is saved by cutting down the appropriation for transportation of the army and supplies from \$15,000,000 in the estimates, to \$14,000,000.

The bill provides for the consolidation of the records and correspondence division with what remains of the Adjutant General's office, under a military secretary, who is to be General Almsworth, if the provision becomes a law. A rule has been passed from the Committee on Rules, however, which provides for a separate vote on this section of the measure.

GEN. REYES' MOVEMENTS EXCITE SOME COMMENT

Whether General Reyes intends to return to Washington and what purpose he may have remaining in New York, are two questions now puzzling those interested in the Colombia-Panama situation here.

General Reyes did not sail from New York on the steamer Allegheny for Cartagena on Sunday, as he had said he would. He refused to give a reason for changing his plans. It will now be fully a week before he can catch another steamer, and it is reported that he is coming to Washington from the Arlington Hotel, where General Reyes spent his previous five weeks' stay in Washington. It is said he has not signified his intention of returning. Neither has he engaged quarters at the other hotel.

Dr. Herran says that General Reyes told him at the time of his departure he regarded his mission as ended and was going home. He bade Dr. Herran an affectionate farewell. General Reyes did not have to present letters of recall, as he was here only on a special mission, but he gave notice to the State Department that his mission was ended.

SWAMPLAND CLAIM WON BY MINNESOTA

The Commissioner of the General Land Office has announced his decision sustaining the claim of the State of Minnesota to certain swamp lands in the State, as against F. A. Hyde & Co.

The land was claimed by Hyde, under forest reserve lien selection and by the State under the swamp land grant of 1860. Although little more than thirty acres were involved, the case has attracted widespread attention, because of the prominence of the contending legal talent, headed by Capt. Benson Forester, son of the Senator from Ohio, and Wayne MacVeagh, and because of the wealth of the mineral deposits supposed to underlie the tract.

Appeal to the Secretary of the Interior may be filed within sixty days.

MR. FORGETTUM E. KNOTT

HE FORGETS HIS SPEECH AND LOSES THE NOMINATION.

